

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM

2014 Funding Cycle

STATE ADMINISTERING AGENCY

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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accepted until 12:00 Noon on Monday,
September 2, 2014.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

All political subdivisions of the state are eligible to participate in the LWCF program. As such, municipalities, counties, state agencies, and state authorities created by the legislature may apply for LWCF assistance. However, state or local educational institutions are prohibited from participation.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

LWCF assistance can be used to acquire land and water interests for park purposes, develop new outdoor recreation facilities, and in certain instances, renovate existing recreational facilities. Virtually all public outdoor recreation activities are eligible for assistance under the program including playgrounds, ball fields (including lights – concrete poles only), court sports, picnic areas, camping area, tracks, trails, splash pads, zip lines, etc. In addition, support facilities such as concession stands, comfort stations, park access roads, parking areas, utilities, and site preparation necessary to make a recreation activity area usable may qualify for assistance. The project sponsor must either own, or have a perpetual interest in land that is developed with LWCF assistance.

MATCHING SHARES

The LWCF program provides up to 50 percent of project costs (not to exceed \$50,000.00) to the project sponsor. The project sponsor must match these funds dollar for dollar with cash or in-kind match. If the project exceeds \$100,000.00, the project sponsor must pay the excess project costs. The LWCF grant funds are distributed on a cost reimbursable basis.

GRANT LIMIT

The maximum grant size is determined by the amount of the state's apportionment. A maximum grant amount of \$50,000.00 is anticipated during this funding cycle. An applicant does not have to request the entire grant amount and ADECA may provide partial funding for projects, if necessary.

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Program was established by the LWCF Act of 1965 to stimulate a nationwide action program to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring to all citizens of the United States of present and future generations such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be available and are necessary and desirable for individual active participation. The program provides matching grants to States and through States to local units of government, for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation sites and facilities."

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Amount Available (Estimated)	\$570,000.00
Grant Ceiling	\$50,000.00
Matching Percentage	50/50
Pre-Applications Accepted After	7/15/14
Pre-Application Deadline	9/2/14
Award Date	TBD
Selection Method	Competitive

FUNDING CYCLE

All eligible project sponsors will be notified of the timing and application procedures, in writing, at the beginning of the funding cycle. Pre-applications for 2014 funding will be

PROGRAM CRITERIA

The following program criteria apply to all applicants seeking LWCF assistance:

- Existing outdoor recreation facilities must be owned and managed by an eligible project sponsor; be well maintained; and the need for LWCF assistance documented in Alabama's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).
- The project sponsor must agree to manage and operate its LWCF assisted site for outdoor recreation purposes in **perpetuity**.
- The project sponsor must agree to comply with all other laws, rules, and regulations associated with the LWCF program.

FUNDING CRITERIA

The following examples represent the type of criteria that are used to assess the relative merits of applications submitted for LWCF assistance:

- Relative need for the proposed activity in the project area
- Project feasibility
- Recreation delivery system
- Operation and maintenance of existing recreation facilities
- Site location and accessibility
- Amount of new acreage being added to the public outdoor recreation trust
- Amount of local match over the minimum required
- Degree to which citizen groups are involved in the development of the project

- Degree to which project furthers the goals of the SCORP:
 - Explore Alabama's outdoor resources
 - Provide quality of life opportunities
 - Promote healthy lifestyles
 - Develop active and passive recreational facilities
 - Ensure accessibility of outdoor recreation facilities to all citizens
 - Recognize and promote the economic impact of recreation in Alabama
 - Promote connectivity of trails
 - Support sustainable trails and trail maintenance
 - Ensure distribution of information
 - Conserve and promote trail resources
 - Develop trail partnerships and collaboration
 - Increase accessibility to trails
 - Ensure protection and enjoyment of wetland areas

Please note, applications for elaborate, tournament only, or professional sports facilities are not eligible.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about the LWCF program, or require technical assistance in determining project scope or the application process, please attend the application workshop in Montgomery, Alabama on July 15, 2014.

THRESHOLDS

An entity may not apply for both RTP and LWCF assistance without prior approval from ADECA.

An entity may not apply if it has an open RTP or LWCF grant as of September 1, 2014.

An entity may not apply if it has unresolved compliance issues from a previous LWCF or RTP grant.

An entity may not apply if it did not respond in writing to a LWCF or RTP inspection report that contained deficiencies.

An entity may not apply if it has not completed a Plan of Correction for previous compliance issues.